

THE TRUE AMERICAN

Devoted to Universal Liberty; Gradual Emancipation in Kentucky; Literature; Agriculture; the Elevation of Labor, Morally and Politically; Commercial Intelligence, &c. &c.

VOLUME I.

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The very large and increasing circulation of the TRUE AMERICAN, in this and other States, will render it a better advertising medium than any paper in the city.

LOVE'S REPLY.

I'll tell you something I've done to me,

Before I crossed, with beating heart,

Old ocean's gloom and glory.

Around me came three graceful girls,

Their farrow'd whisp'ers reaching—

Julie—with light and lovely curls,

Her snowy shoulders wreathing;

And poor Georgine—with stately mien,

And glance of calm intent;

Who moved—like a queen—looks—a queen;

All passionless and pure;

And Kate, whose low, melodious tone

Is tuned by Love and Feeling,

Whose soft yet wistful eyes talk on,

When fear her lips is sealing.

"From what far country, shall I write?"

I asked, with pride, and they replied,

"From what far country, shall I write?"

Julie tossed back her locks of light,

With girlish grace and glow,

"To me from glorious Venice write,

Queen city of the Sea."

"And thou, Georgine?" Her dark eyes flashed,

"All date to thee, dear lines."

From some proud palace, where the pomp

Of olden hours shines!"

But Kate—the darling of my soul,

My bright, yet bashful flower,

In whose dear heart some new, pure leaf,

Seems to unfold each hour.

Kate turned her shy, sweet looks from mine,

And I her blush could see,

Least I—oh! only love could hear—

"Write from your heart to me!"

From the Observer & Reporter.

THE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.

I was forcibly struck with the extravagant

radicalism of the following strictures

of the New York Tribune in relation to

the freedom of the press, and as I consider

clear ideas in regard to it of great im-

portance at the present time, I cannot forego

this opportunity to give my views to the

public. The Tribune says:

"Liberty is a brave word, and the absolute

Liberty of the Press is the theme of inter-

minable exultation. But how is the Press

free here? From legal fetters, of course, save

such as flagrant judicial misconstructions of

the law of Libel and Slander, and the 'Secre-

tary' censor known to our laws, appointed to

seize and sequester every number of a journal

which shall venture to express sentiments dis-

pleasing to the powers that be. But we have

editorial censorship, differing in fashion, but

not in spirit, from the Autocrat's? Have we not

the mails rifled and a portion of their con-

tents burned in an eastern Southern City on

the ground that their contents were 'incendi-

ary?' Did not the whole community applaud or acquiesce

in that outrage? Have we not seen several presses

destroyed on the strength of a suspicion that they

were employed in disseminating 'incendiary

doctrines, (this is a touch beyond the Czar), and

in one instance, the owner killed in attempting

to defend his property? In short, is it not a part

of the unwritten Common Law of the Country, es-

tablished and enforced by ever so many riots,

mob, and rowdy disturbances of public meetings,

that proclaiming unpopular sentiments is a grave

offense against the 'Common Law' of the People, which

the offender may be called to expiate by any

penalty which a casual gathering of the Sovereigns

may see fit to inflict?"

This paragraph needs no learned com-

mentary that its precise meaning and full

import may be understood. It contains no

oblique and scarcely intelligible allusion—

no attempt to mystify what it might be what

and immodest fully and frankly to avow,

"Liberty is a brave word," we admit, and

one, too, that is often misunderstood, fre-

quently misapplied, and sometimes made

to disguise and conceal deeply laid schemes

against the "unalienable and inalienable

rights of man." The "absolute Liberty

of the Press" is a phrase that cannot be

misinterpreted, especially when we observe

the manner in which it has been illustrated

by the Tribune, although it has not had the

boldness to define or explain it. Taken in

connection with the facts referred to in

illustration of the violation of the Liberty

of the Press, it is plain to be seen that it

stands up for the unrestrained licentious-

ness of journalism, and by an implication

contends that it should be without any

legitimate bounds or restraints. That this is

exaggerated license, that this is no exag-

geration, is proved by the howl of dissa-

tisfaction set up because the South has refused

to suffer the most incendiary publications to

be thus scattered through its mixed popu-

lation—because the people of several cities

have destroyed presses which were design-

ed to foment domestic insurrection, and

because an infuriated fanatic unfortunately

lost his life in attempting to set at defiance

the deliberately formed and openly an-

nounced decrees of public opinion. Thus it

is easy to understand what the Tribune

means by the "absolute Liberty of the

Press." It is the privilege of outraging

the feelings and condemning the settled

sentiments of a community with perfect

impunity. Now, our Constitution does not

teach, nor do our laws, approve of such

notions of the Liberty of the Press. We

are not only jealous of, but would resist

any other restriction than that imposed by

a well regulated and established public

opinion; and greater freedom than this can-

not be desired or submitted to by any one

who observes order and respects the law.

In the Constitution, as it was originally

adopted, not a syllable is to be found in

relation to the Liberty of the Press; nor was

it necessary that it should have declared

"the Liberty of the Press shall be inviol-

ably preserved." In the 84th number of the

Federalist it is asked—"What is the

Liberty of the Press? Who can give it

any definition which would not leave the

most latitude for evasion? Is it to be

impracticable; and from this infer, that

its security, whatever it may be, is to be

inserted in any constitution respecting

it must altogether depend on public opinion,

and on the general spirit of the people and

of the government."

The silence, however, of the Constitu-

tion in relation to the press was not satis-

factory, and therefore, in an amendment,

it was declared that "Congress shall make

no law abridging the freedom of speech or

of the press." Judge Story, in his commentary

on this clause says—"That this amend-

ment was intended to secure to every citi-

zen an absolute right to speak, or write,

or print, whatever he might please, with-

out any responsibility, public or private,

therefore, is a supposition too wild to be

admitted."

So anxious for the peace and prosperity

of the community are the people of Mas-

sachusetts, that they have attempted to

enforce temperance by legislative enactments,

and every State in the Union has, for

similar reasons, passed laws for the sup-

pression of gambling, and shall we be told

that the "absolute liberty of the press"

is denied, when we refuse to suffer the

press to be used for the purpose of inflaming

the minds of a part of our population into

such a state of desperate exasperation as

shall endanger every interest dear and

sacred? It is "a part of the unwritten

common law of the country," that respect

shall be paid to public opinion, and, although

we are opposed to seeing its decrees enforced

by "riots, mobs, and rowdy disturbances

of public meetings," we would rather that

the peace and order of society should be

interrupted by such outbreaks than that its

established and canonized modes of think-

ing and acting should be treated with con-

temptuous indignity by every fanatic or

fool who may fancy he has been specially

sent to reform mankind, by summarily

eradicating all that is ancient in habit and

custom, and subverting all that is venerable.

JUNUS.

From the National Intelligencer.

TO THE EDITORS.

GENTLEMEN.—A writer in your paper of

Tuesday expresses his surprise at what he

terms the "anomalous increase of popula-

tion" in the States of Virginia and the

Carolinas, which he is unable to reconcile

with the ratio of increase in the other

States. Having since the publication of the

census of 1840, given the subject much

consideration, and come to what appears to

me a satisfactory solution of the problem,

I beg leave to submit it to your readers.—

His difficulty is this: from 1820 to 1830

the ratio of the increase of population in

the above named States was 13 to 15 per

cent, while in the next decennial period,

from 1830 to 1840, the ratio dwindles to

a fraction over two per cent. In the other

States where a diminution of the ratio is

perceptible, it has taken place by regular

gradations. Your correspondent calls this

an anomaly; and, without expressing any

doubt as to the correctness of the census,

he wishes to see the fact accounted for, and

reconciled with probability.

I attribute the sudden stoppage in the in-

crease of population in Virginia and the

Carolinas to the existence of slavery, which

is incompatible with density, where there

is room for emigration. The ultimate point

at which the increase of population in the

slave States must stop, so long as a fertile

territory lies beyond, is that at which all

the tobacco and cotton or sugar lands have

been brought under cultivation. If there

is any increase beyond this point, it will be

of the white population, as is the case in

the mountain regions of the States to which

I have referred. In Virginia there was a

material diminution of the population east

of the Blue Ridge, between 1830 and 1840,

while there was an aggregate increase in

the State. The increase belongs to the

white population west of the mountains.

But why, your correspondent will ask,

should this peculiarity attend the institution

of slavery? Why should population cease

to increase after all the good lands are oc-

cupied and cultivated? I answer, first, be-

cause there never can be but one great in-

terest, the agricultural, in a State or dis-

trict where a half or more of the popula-

tion are held in slavery; and consequently,

after all the lands which can be profitably

cultivated are cut down, the increase of the

slave population beyond that point will be

as a burden to the soil. It is as at present

the case, there exists abundant unculti-

vated lands in the new States, the excess of

slave labor in the old will of course be

taken to them; but if no such outlet ex-

ists, the slaves would rapidly decline in val-

ue. In the free States, while the me-

chanics find employment in the wants of

all classes, they in turn furnish a market

to the agriculturist. Thus every augmen-

tation of one class gives occupation and

support to the increasing number of the

other; and society goes on accumulating in

wealth and numbers to an indefinite extent.

But in the slave States there are no trades-

men, and on the other hand, the planters

have no market for the common products

of the soil, as breadstuffs and the like, be-

cause there is but the one class in society;

that is to say, themselves. Feeding slaves

can give no encouragement to agriculture,

unless they are bred for market; because if

there existed no demand for their labor at

home or abroad, the mere cultivation of the

soil for the sake of supplying their wants

could profit the land proprietor nothing.—

It is otherwise with free labor: the free la-

borer and his family pay for what they

eat; and their wants as properly constitute

a market for the products of the soil as do

those of the mechanic or physician.

As to the encouragement which agricul-

ture receives in Virginia and the Carolinas

from the mere feeding of slaves which are

exported, may benefit individuals, but it

cannot enrich or people the country, in the

nature of things. So far as those States

are engaged in rearing slaves for the

Southern market, it is, I believe, without

an exception an unremunerated thing on

the part of individuals. The export

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C. M. CLAY.

CITY SUBSCRIBERS.—Until the carrier becomes fully acquainted with his route and the places at which papers are to be left in the city, he will probably fail to furnish some of our city subscribers. Every one who may happen to be thus neglected will please call and make the fact immediately known, and give directions where his paper shall be deposited.

his projected civil war by the less heroic, but more harmless mode of the duel. If we slay us, the press shall stop; if we slay him, then never shall doctor's lancet draw blood more. Here, I must confess, I make but little show of courage, for I fall in with the opinion which generally prevails among my own gallant countrymen, that *mob-*

With shame have ended, it shall be said of us, if we attained not the high mark of our fondly cherished aspirations, we dared much, in our humble way, for the vindication of the liberties of men;—if we, by the stern and inexorable decree of fate, fell

And again:
Shylock. If you deny it, let the danger light
 Upon your charter and your city's freedom.
 Here this "damned inexorable dog" (to
 use the words of *Gratiano*) plotting the
 murder in cold blood, of the worthiest man

THE CROWNED HEADS.—Paris, in the month of August next, will exhibit the imposing and exciting spectacle of no less than six crowned heads at once, and the same time, viz: Louis Philippe himself, the Queen of England, the King of the Belgians, the King of Naples, the Queen of Spain, and the King of Holland.—*Low Journal*.

the energies of human nature to oppose the subversion of the laws of social enjoyment. Teach mankind that society is an institution for their good, and they will defend it. Expose those mysterious arts which hold the world in chains and darkness, let the

qualities. Good sugars are selling for 61c. by the hhds. The auction sale of 350 hhds. sugar, advertised this week by W. & C. Fellows & Co., was sold off rather languidly. About 70 hhds. were sold for from 6 to 61c. the remainder was withdrawn. The stock is above 2,500 hhds. We quote loaf 124 a 13c. and white Havana 11 a 12c. per lb.

SALT.—We quote Kanawha at 24c. per bushel.

same care and accuracy as book work. The first two numbers will form two volumes truly worthy of preservation, of four hundred and sixteen pages each, equal in quantity to twelve hundred pages or three volumes of Rees's Cyclopaedia. Each volume will be accompanied by a title page and an index.

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